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THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 January 2002]

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*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Right to Development

1 – The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), that campaigns for the promotion of a non-violence culture, believes that the principles of this violence-free culture is interrelated with the realization of all human rights, and in this relation the Organization particularly stresses on the realization of the right to development.

2 – The ODVV states that for over half a century, the United Nations documents as well as the experts have all stressed the important link between the right to development and the realization of all human rights. The pinnacle of these activities was the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986 which states that "the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized." It must be taken into consideration that human person is the central subject of the development process and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development. That's why the governments should do their utmost to eradicate poverty through a rights-based approach.

3 – The ODVV is proud to inform that for the first time in the history of Iran, during the Human Rights Day Conference, which was organized by eleven NGOs in Tehran, the right to development was identified as one of the work topics and on this issue a workshop was set up by one of the NGOs. The participants of this workshop came to the conclusion that everyone must work hard for promoting the right to development and that the workshop should carry on its work during the year so that in 2002, on Human Rights Day (11 September 2002) it can present a full report of the realization of the right to development in our country.

4 – The ODVV believes that the subject of sustainable development should be seriously discussed in this September's Sustainable Development Conference in Johannesburg. The organization therefore calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to prepare a special report of the relevant working group to present at the conference. This report may contain a review of the past activities of the Commission on Human Rights for the promotion of the right to development, measures taken by the States for the implementation of Declaration and activities of the UN agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The ODVV also requests the main partners of the right to development – i.e. the United Nations Development Group consisting of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, ILO, World Bank and IMF – to pay particular attention to the realization of the right to development and to discuss and pursue this issue during the Earth Summit..